REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 12, 13, 15, 18 and 19 are pending and under consideration in the present application; Claims 1, 9 and 15 having been amended; and Claims 5, 8, 14 and 20 having been cancelled by way of the present amendment. No new matter is introduced.

The outstanding Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, 13-15, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious based on **Christenbery** (US 2,800,635) in view of **Pohjola** (US 5,997,338), and claims 4, 6, 12, and 18 as obvious based on **Christenbery** in view of **Pohjola** and further in view of **Komai** (US 6,017,241).

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, 13-15, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious based on **Christenbery** (US 2,800,635) in view of **Pohjola** (US 5,997,338). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 9 as amended recite the feature that: "said contacts are at least partially hollow, each of said contacts having a central aperture therein configured to receive one of said leads of said light source within said aperture and *laterally surrounded by said aperture*", and independent claim 15 as amended similarly recites the feature of "said step of connecting said leads further comprising inserting each said lead into a central aperture within each said contact, such that *each said lead is laterally surrounded by each said central aperture*" (*emphasis added*).

Neither **Christenbery** nor **Pohjola** teaches or suggests hollow contacts that laterally surround the leads of a light source, or the step of insertion of such leads into such contacts, as per the above claimed features. The light sources **44** of **Christenbery** are without any leads, and

employ snap-on sockets **10** to attach to cord **42**. **Pohjola**, on the other hand, employs pins **9a** to perforate conductors **2** in the embodiment of FIG. 5, but still fails to teach or suggest that pins **9a** are hollow or that they receive the leads **13** of the light source **12**.

Consequently, independent Claims 1, 9 and 15 patentably define over **Christenbery** and **Pohjola**, whether taken separately or in combination, and are therefore allowable, together with Claims 2-4, 6, 12, 13, 18 and 19 that depend therefrom.

Claims 4, 6, 12, and 18 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) based on **Christenbery** in view of **Pohjola** and further in view of **Komai** (US 6,017,241). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

These claims depend from independent Claims 1, 9 and 15. As the independent Claims 1, 9 and 15 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, and as **Komai** also fails to teach or suggest either "said contacts are at least partially hollow, each of said contacts having a central aperture therein configured to receive one of said leads of said light source within said aperture and laterally surrounded by said aperture" or "said step of connecting said leads further comprising inserting each said lead into a central aperture within each said contact, such that each said lead is laterally surrounded by each said central aperture".

Komai shows contacts **119, 120** of an insulation displacement type, and which receive leads, but the lead-receiving channels **140, 142** of contacts **119, 120** are not central apertures configured to *laterally surround* the leads. Instead they are horseshoe-shaped, so as to receive leads with different spacings. Nor are contacts **119, 120** or spikes **121, 123** thereof *hollow* as presently claimed. See, for example, FIG. 6 and 7 and column 4, line 53 - column 5, line 3 of **Komai**:

> The embodiment of FIG. 6 further includes first and second cavities **131, 133**, formed in a recessed area **117** shown as an arcuate cutaway in the end of the cover **113**. These cavities **131,**

133 receive respective contact elements **119, 120**, for establishing electrical contact to feed wires **73, 75**. The contact elements **119, 120** are each of a horseshoe-shaped cross-section as shown in FIG. **7**, providing respective interior lead receiving channels **140, 142**, and respective electrically conductive spikes **121, 123**. The channels **140, 142** permit the device **11** to accommodate lamps having various pin spacings d_1 between respective pins **125**. FIG. 6 further illustrates the contacts **119, 120** in place with spikes **121, 123** piercing the insulation layer of respective feed wires **73, 75** so as to establish electrical contact with the conductor portions thereof. It may be noted that the "horseshoe" openings of the contacts **119, 120** will typically be relatively narrow in practice so as to accommodate contact pins of a very small diameter such as 0.020 inches.

Claims 4, 6, 12, and 18 are therefore allowable over the combination of **Christenbery, Pohjola** and **Komai**, as none of these references, whether taken separately or in combination, teaches or suggests the above recited features of independent claims 1, 9 and 15 from which they depend.

Consequently, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejections of record and is in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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